01:790:324:01: Causes of War Time: M & Th 9.15-10.35

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**Course Summary**

This course offers a critical evaluation of the causes of international conflict. It begins by surveying some of the classic contributions to the study of war and peace by Thucydides, Aquinas, Hobbes, Machiavelli, Kant and Keohane and Nye. The course then examines the historical development of the modern system of states from its origins in the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 until the end of the nineteenth century. The final section of the course looks at the origins of the major international conflicts of the twentieth and twenty-first century, considering the First World War, the Second World War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the crisis in trans-Atlantic relations that developed during the 2003 Iraq War. The emphasis throughout the course is on the relevance of the theoretical and empirical material for issues facing contemporary American foreign policy.

**Syllabus – Fall 2015**

1. (Thurs 3rd Sept) **Overview**

* Course and logistics.

2. (7th & 10th Sept) **Introduction:** **War and Values**

- Aquinas (Vasquez #6)

- The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Political Thought “Just War” E-Res

- Walzer “Against Realism” E-Res

- Hobbes (Vasquez #29)

- Kagan “The Power Divide” E-Res

- Kennedy “The Eagle Has Landed” E-Res

3. (14th & 17th Sept) **Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War**

- Thucydides Book I pp.1-67 (origins of the Peloponnesian War) [read in advance for next week]

- Thucydides Book II 67-99 (Spartan invasion; Funeral Oration; Athenian Plague; Policy of Pericles)

- Book III 119-139 (Mytilenian Debate); 150-155 (Corcyraean Revolution)

- Book IV 169-187 (Battle of Pylos)

- Book V 267-273 (Melian Dialogue)

- Book VI: 275-289 (Launching of Sicilian Expedition)

4. (21st & 24th Sept) **Machiavelli and the Origins of Modern Realism**

-Machiavelli, The Prince

5. (28th Sept & 1st Oct**) Kant’s “Perpetual Peace”** *(Quiz #1)*

- Kant, “Perpetual Peace” in On History

- Maoz and Russett (Vasquez #51)

6. (5th & 8th Oct) **Interdependence and International Institutions**

- Keohane and Nye Power and Interdependence chs 1, 2 and 10

7. (12th & 15th Oct) **Westphalia, Sovereignty and the Balance of Power**

- Jackson and Owens E-Res

- Morse E-Res

- Bull E-res

-Hirst & Thompson E-res

8. (19th & 22nd Oct) **The Napoleonic Wars and the 1815 Settlement** *(Mid-term exam)*

* Thompson E-Res
* Gulick E-Res

9. (26th & 29th Oct) **The Nineteenth Century Concert of Europe**

- Elrod E-Res

- Richardson E-Res

10.(2nd Nov & 5th Nov) **The Onset of World War I and World War II (Part a)**

- Joll, Origins of the First World War, chs. 1-5

- Nye “The Balance of Power and World War 1” in Understanding International Conflicts

- Sir Eyre Crowe (memorandum) E-Res

- Calvocoressi & Wint chs 2 & 3

- Nye “The Rise and Fall of Collective Security” (E-res pp.93-103)

11. (9th & 12th Nov)*(ISA Northeast conference)* **The Onset of World War II (Part b) and Foreign Policy Analysis and the Cuban Missile Crisis I**

**-** Calvocoressi & Wint chs 3-4 E-Res

- Nye “The Rise and Fall of Collective Security” (E-res pp.93-103)

- Allison & Halperin (Vasquez #24)

- Oxford Encyclopedic Companion to World Politics “Cuban Missile Crisis” E-Res

12. (16th Nov & 19th Nov) **Foreign Policy Analysis and the Cuban Missile Crisis II**

- Allison E-Res

- Jervis (Vasquez #23)

13. (Mon 23rd and Tues 26th Nov THANKSGIVING WEEK)

* Catch up & spare capacity

14. (30th Nov & 3rd Dec) **American Power, Rogue States and Terrorism I**

- Kagan “American Power and the Crisis of Legitimacy” E-Res

- Kennedy “The Eagle Has Landed” E-Res (repeated reading from week 1)

- Walzer - “Anticipations” E-Res (just war theory and pre-emptive strikes)

- Walzer – “The Right Way” E-Res (just war theory and Iraq intervention)

15. (7th Dec ONLY) **Review**

**Other Notes:**

*\*\*\*\*Please print all readings and bring them to class\*\*\*\**

Final grade is based on:

**(\*\*\**In individual cases,* *I reserve the right to change any/all of these %ages at my discretion to suit circumstances*\*\*\*)**

Participation 10%

1 quiz @ 20%

1 midterm exam @ 30%

1 final exam @ 40%.

**Books to Buy:**

\*Joseph Nye Understanding International Conflicts (latest edition)

James Joll, The Origins of the First World War (3rd edition)

Immanuel Kant, On History

Nicolo Machiavelli, The Prince

Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War (Translated by Richard Crawley)

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye Power and Interdependence (3rd edition)

John Vasquez, Classics of International Relations (3rd edition)

Note:

In addition to the compulsory reading from Nye’s excellent book Understanding International Conflicts, I suggest you read Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 in your own time to supplement your knowledge and understanding at appropriate stages in the course. For example, chapters 1 and 2 will be helpful to read for the first two weeks.

**Summary of schedule for course:**

Week 1

2

3

4

5 Quiz #1 Thurs 1st Oct

6

7

8 Mid-term Exam Thurs 22nd Oct

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

FINAL EXAM